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# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 11, 2013**

### **VA invites community to Four Chaplains memorial service**

VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS) invites the public to participate in the observance of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans and the Four Chaplains memorial service at 1:30 p.m. on February 10, at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church in Sturgis.

“This is a way to honor our Veterans. It means so much when the community supports the Four Chaplains event through their attendance. It says, ‘Thank You’ to all of the Veterans that have preserved our great nation as a free country,” Rene Porter-Stewart, chaplain with the VA BHHCS, said. “Freedom is not free.”

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans gives community members a chance to let those who have given so much to the nation know that they are not forgotten.

The Four Chaplains Memorial Service honors four Army Chaplains – Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Reformed Church of America, - who gave up their life jackets and lives so that younger soldiers could live when the USS Dorchester was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine, February 3, 1943.

Area Veterans’ Organizations will donate wreaths to be laid by different branches of the military and the Veterans’ Organizations to represent hundreds of years of military service and those who have given their lives.

The public is invited to attend. Veteran organizations are welcome to bring a wreath to be placed at the altar during the program. A chili supper will be served to all participants at the Sturgis Veterans Club following the program.

For more information, contact the Fort Meade Chaplain’s office at 347-2511, ext. 7659.

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